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Letter dated 25 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Chairman's statement on the results of the meeting of the Regional Initiative on Iraq, which was held in Istanbul on 15 June 2004 with the participation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON IRAQ

İstanbul, 15 June 2004

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs or the Heads of Delegation of the countries of the Regional Initiative on Iraq, namely the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey, held, upon the invitation of Turkey in the course of the Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, a meeting in İstanbul, on the 15th June 2004.

They

- **Recalled** the conclusions of the previous meetings of the Regional Initiative on Iraq,
- **Assessed** the current developments, and
- **Welcomed** the participation of His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Iraq, at the meeting,
- **Reaffirmed** the independence, sovereignty, national unity, and territorial integrity of Iraq, and the centrality of these cardinal principles for the stability of Iraq and the region;
- **Confirmed their strong expectation** to see an Iraq at peace with itself and with its neighbours;
- **Reiterated** the inalienable right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their own political future and control their own natural resources;
- **Welcomed** the planned transfer of sovereignty to the newly formed Iraqi Interim Government by 30 June 2004, **stressed** that this transfer must be full, and **wished** the Interim Government of Iraq success;

- **Again welcomed in this respect**, the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1546 by the United Nations Security Council on the ending of the occupation in Iraq, assumption of sovereignty by the Iraqis and their transition process;

- **Emphasized** that the full participation of the entirety of the Iraqi people in the political transition is the prerequisite for the legitimacy of the process and for bringing about a fully representative government;

- **Expressed** their support to the Iraqi people in their endeavour to complete the transition process successfully and in meeting their humanitarian needs;

- **Stressed** the need for the United Nations to play a central role in assisting Iraqis in their institution-building and election preparation, and **expressed** the hope that the UN will be able to perform its functions in Iraq in security and with the full cooperation of all;

- **Further stressed** that the foreign forces in the country should remain strictly under the UN mandate defining the framework and conditions for the presence of the Multi-National Force after the end of occupation, as stipulated under the UN Security Council Resolution 1546;

- **Expressed** in this connection that the security situation in Iraq remains as a major challenge, and that the provision of security and stability is essential to the completion of the political process in Iraq;

- **Reminded** the responsibility of all forces that will remain or be stationed in Iraq as part of the Multi-National Force under the consent of the Iraqi Interim Government to act in accordance with the international law, including obligations under the international humanitarian law;

- **Condemned** the terrorist acts and the attacks against civilians, Iraqi security forces, humanitarian and religious institutions, as well as international organizations and diplomatic missions in Iraq;

- Likewise **drew attention** to the ongoing terrorist presence in Iraq and to terrorist activities in and from Iraq which threaten the security of its neighbours, and to the responsibility of the Iraqi Interim Government to deal resolutely with their presence and activities;

- **Supported** the Iraqis in building their national security institutions, also by dismantling all militia presence, that should assume full responsibility of the country's security in the nearest future;

- **Reaffirmed** the importance of international cooperation and support for strengthening Iraq's security and stability;

- **Reiterated** the importance of the role of Iraq's neighbours in support of the Iraqi people's efforts to achieve security and prosperity;

- **Welcomed** the recognition by the United Nations Security Council of Iraq's neighbours' crucial positive role for the stability and well-being of Iraq and the region;

- **Commended** and **encouraged** the UN Secretary-General in this respect on his initiative to develop a substantive dialogue with the regional countries and the UN Security Council;

- **Stressed once again the determination** of the regional countries to support the Iraqis in their progress on the path towards building fully legitimate and representative national institutions.

- **Thanked** Egypt for inviting the countries of the Regional Initiative for the sixth official meeting, to Cairo, at the end of July, 2004.